

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the above-identified Office Action. The above listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the proposed amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Improper Multiple dependency

It is submitted that claim 7 was amended in the preliminary amendment submitted on January 8, 2001 in a manner which, along with claim 6, removed all multiple dependency. Indeed, the instant Office Action stipulates that it is responsive to this very submission. Therefore, the admitted withholding of "further treatment on the merits" of claim 7, appears to be an error on the side of the PTO, and any further action on the merits with respect to this claim, other than its allowance, should be made non-final.

Specification

The abstract has been revised, and now meets the requirements set forth in MPEP § 608.01(b). The abstract contains 108 words and is within the range of 50-150 mentioned in paragraph #2 of this Office Action. A replacement abstract which contains all of the amendments shown on page 2, is enclosed with this response.

Claim Status

In this response, claims 1 and 8 are amended in a manner which improves their clarity. Claims 4-6 stand allowed, and new claims 9-16 are presented for examination. These newly presented claims find support in the originally filed specification and claims, and are patentable over the art for at least the same reasons advanced in connection with the rejection of claims 1-3 and 8.

Rejections Under 35 USC § 112

In connection with the rejection of claims 1-3 and 8 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, it is stated that it is not clear what "point code number" represents. In response, it is submitted that the terms "point code" and point code number" are well known/understood by those skilled in the art and that these terms and their usage is set forth in the specification to the degree that their meaning can be understood without difficulty. Indeed, if one performs an electronic "Google®" search, no less than 40 hits come up which refer to both of these terms.

Basically, point codes are unique identifiers for signalling points within an SS7 network. One point code is assigned to each signalling point and signalling transfer point. A point code is a number. In the specification, the term "point code" is used to refer to the entity that is identified by the point code and the term point code number is used to refer to the identifier itself. It is submitted that this is made clear in the opening paragraph of the instant specification.

In connection with claim 8, the issue as to what distinguishes the "point code number" from the destination address, is raised. Inasmuch as claim 8 specifies that the point code number is used to define a destination address in the recited signalling link test message, this issue raised is not clear. That is to say, the point code number is used to define the destination address. The relationship is clear and it is not seen that there is any further need to distinguishing between the two.

MPEP 608.01(o) - Basis for Claim Terminology in Description – makes it clear that the meaning of every term used in any of the claims should be apparent from the descriptive portion of the specification. It is submitted that the above referenced opening paragraphs of the specification provides this meaning and makes it clear that any meaning repugnant to the usual meaning of the term, is absent.

It is also submitted that the amendments to the claims resolves any possible issue relating to antecedent basis.

Rejections Under 35 USC § 102

The rejection of claims 1-3 and 8 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Christie et al. (USP 5,926,482) is respectfully traversed.

It is submitted that the position taken in this rejection that Christie et al. disclose a process of updating a table of distant point codes by listening to point code status messages, is incorrect. As different from the claimed subject matter, it is submitted that Christie et al. disclose a point code conversion scheme in which a conversion table is consulted based on the point codes in a message being processed. It is submitted that the table is not updated as required by the claims. It is therefore advanced that, for at least this reason, Christie et al. do not anticipate the subject matter recited in claims 1-3 and 8.

More specifically, the rejection relies on the disclosure of column 8, line 28 of Christie et al. to disclose the claimed updating. However, column 8, lines 21- 42, which encompasses the cited section, discloses:

Point Code Conversion 500 is added and shown between level 2 and level 3. Point Code Conversion 500 accepts the messages from Level 2 and provides messages to Discrimination 312. Point Code Conversion 500 translates the data in the signaling messages using internal tables. Typically, these tables would logically reside in the MTP software processed by the STP. The tables would be used to systematically change designated DPCs, OPCs, and CICs of the signaling messages directed to Discrimination 312.

The appropriate table could be selected based on the linksets or signaling clusters that the messages arrive on. These linksets and clusters represent the origin of the messages. The tables could also be selected or entered

based on the OPC which also represents the origin of the messages. The tables could then use the OPC, DPC and/or CIC of the messages to select new data for the conversion, including a new OPC, DPC, and/or CIC.

Because Routing 314 will select the outbound link based on the DPC, Point Code Conversion 500 can change the actual destination of the signaling message. **The tables would be constructed to effect these desired changes.**

(Emphasis added)

As will be appreciated there is neither disclosure nor suggestion of the tables per se being updated. Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejection should be withdrawn and the claims rejected in view thereof, allowed.

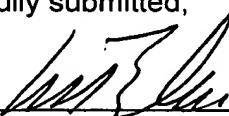
Conclusion

It is submitted that claimed subject matter of both the newly presented claims as well as those rejected in the Office Action, are allowable over the art. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of these claims along with those which stand allowed, is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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